

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100140008-4
 FEB 25 1967
 CPYRIGHT

Ex-CIA Head Backs Open Aid

By Thomas Collins
 Newday Washington Bureau Chief

CPYRIGHT

Washington—Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, a former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said yesterday it should be possible for the U.S. government to channel funds openly to private groups operating overseas, providing it does not jeopardize their independence.



Raborn

Raborn, who preceded Richard Helms as CIA director, said in an interview that "it is possible that ways could be found for the administration and Congress to openly participate in helping private organizations have a presence overseas, if some kind of arrangement could be worked out where the government would be able to assist groups without endangering the independence of the organizations."

Raborn saw as one of the chief stumbling blocks to such above-board funding the fact that many private organizations would be reluctant to accept government funds for fear of being subjected to the charge of political interference. One of the reasons the National Students Association accepted CIA subsidies, he said, was because "it was made very clear to a few of their leaders that there would be no effort to change their international policy, or make it correspond to our government policy."

Similar assurances, along with the subsidies, could be given openly, he said. It was not his intention to make specific recommendations to the government; he added, but it "should be possible to set up some kind of public

or semi-public body which could channel funds openly to these groups without strings attached."

He said such a body might be tailored along the lines of the British Council, which works mainly in the educational field. A spokesman for the British Embassy said the council operates under a \$30,000,000 annual budget from the British government. He said the council was set up in 1934 to promote wider knowledge of the English language and better understanding of British life. It was to be administered "by a body that was not a department of government and would thus be free from the suspicion that its work was directed . . . by transitory political exigencies." The White House declined comment on the Raborn suggestion.

Raborn was responding to questions put to him in the wake of criticism of the CIA for covertly financing student and labor organizations through private foundations.

Raborn also made these points:

- o Students were not controlled by the CIA and were not agents of the government. The government funds were channeled through foundations, which, to them, were private, and enabled the students to travel overseas without "any strings on them."

- o Communist governments use large quantities of both secret and public funds to finance attendance at international youth conferences and their "student groups are completely controlled by the governments."

- o The effectiveness of the CIA has been lessened because of the disclosure that the NSA was receiving CIA funds, but he does not feel that the "so-called CIA crisis will make it difficult for Americans to have fruitful contacts abroad. . . ."

- o The CIA is now closely supervised by the National Security Council and Congress and any changes, as far as congressional surveillance is concerned, are a matter for Congress to decide.

FOIAB3b1